Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01

L-03 EB-11 AID-20 CU-04 IGA-02 AGR-20 SCI-06 HEW-08

ACDA-19 AEC-11 COME-00 RSR-01 /198 W ------ 123330

R 172133Z AUG 73 FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 728 INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR BL IS

SUBJ: VISIT OF ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER TO BOLIVIA

1. VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER OF ISRAEL, ABBA EBAN, TO LA PAZ TOOK PLACE AUGUST 13-16 WITHOUT INCIDENT, AMIDST ELABORATE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS. EBAN AND BOLIVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER GUTIERREZ SIGNED JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND RATIFIED EXISTING BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION, ORIGINALLY SIGNED APRIL 13, 1972 IN JERUSALEM DURING OFFICIAL VISIT BY GUTIERREZ TO ISRAEL.

2. PRIMARY RESULT OF VISIT WAS ISRAELI PROMISE TO EXTEND
FURTHER ASSISTANCE TO BOLIVIA IN FOLLOWING AREAS: REFORESTATION,
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, IRRIGATION PROJECTS, SOIL CONSERVATION,
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY, DEVELOPMENT PLANNING,
PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, TECHNICAL EXCHANGES ON
FISCAL AND FINANCIAL MATTERS, AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION
PROJECTS, AND INSTRUCTION IN DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVES
THROUGH PROVISION OF SCHOLARSHIPS. ISRAEL ALSO EXPRESSED
ITS "UNDERSTANDING" FOR BOLIVIA'S DESIRE TO OBTAIN AN
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OUTLET TO THE SEA. BOLIVIA, IN TURN, EXPRESSED ITS SUPPORT

FOR ISRAELI POSITION ON MIDDLE EASTERN PEACE SETTLEMENT, BASED ON "RECOGNITION OF SECURE FRONTIERS, FREELY AGREED UPON, TO BE ACHIEVED VIA "NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THE PARTIES, WITHOUT FOREIGN INTERVENTION OR PRESSURE." THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE ALSO REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING THE SIGNING OF AN EXTRADITION TREATY; IN THIS CONTEXT, EBAN TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH GUTIERREZ THE CASE OF FORMER SS CAPTAIN KLAUS ALTMANN, WHO IS CURRENTLY IMPRISONED IN LA PAZ AWAITING THE DECISION OF THE BOLIVIAN SUPREME COURT ON EXTRADITION REQUESTS FROM FRANCE AND PERU.

- 3. IN ADDITION TO HEAVY SCHEDULE OF WORK SESSIONS WITH BOLIVIAN OFFICIALS, EBAN WAS GUEST OF HONOR AT LUNCHEON HOSTED BY PRESIDENT BANZER, WAS DECLARED "DISTINGUISHED GUEST" OF CITY OF LA PAZ, AND ATTENDED DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION IN HIS HONOR AT FOREIGN MINISTRY EVENING OF AUGUST 14. INTERESTINGLY, LATTER RECEPTION WAS BOYCOTTED BY DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN LA PAZ.
- 4. LA PAZ PRESS GAVE RELATIVELY HEAVY COVERAGE TO EBAN VISIT, TOGETHER WITH LIMITED BUT FAVORABLE EDITORIAL COMMENT. PRESS COMMENTARY HIGHLIGHTED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF STATE OF ISRAEL, TOGETHER WITH AID AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WHICH ISRAEL CONTINUES TO PROVIDE TO BOLIVIA. FACT THAT BOLIVIA WAS ONE OF ONLY TWO LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO RECEIVE OFFICIAL VISIT FROM EBAN ON HIS CURRENT TOUR (OTHER WAS BRAZIL) ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO POSITIVE REACTION TO HIS VISIT. ALTHOUGH ISRAELI AIR FORCE ACTION IN FORCING LEBANESE COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT TO LAND IN ISRAEL OCCURED JUST AS EBAN ARRIVED IN LA PAZ, EMBASSY HAS OBSERVED NO EDITORIAL OR PUBLIC REACTION TO INCIDENT, WHICH WAS REPORTED IN STRAIGHT FACTUAL MANNER IN BOLIVIAN PRESS. BREWIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: TREATY RATIFICATION, MINISTERIAL VISITS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 17 AUG 1973 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973| APA705074

Document Number: 1973LAPAZ05074 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: n/a From: LA PAZ

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730832/aaaaawyp.tel Line Count: 94

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE Office: ACTION ARA

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: golinofr Review Content Flags: Review Date: 15 JAN 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a Review History: RELEASED <15-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by golinofr>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: VISIT OF ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER TO BOLIVIA

TAGS: PFOR, BL, IS, (EBAN, ABBA)

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005